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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/774,862 | OHNISHI, SHINJI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Scott Sun | 2182 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- a. Claims 11-18, directed to switching between operating modes based on detecting a connection of an external device.
- b. Claims 19-26, directed to switching between operating modes based on a command received from an external device.

The species are independent or distinct because the two species represent two different embodiments of applicant's invention (shown in figures 1-3, and 4-6 respectively).

2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

3. During a telephone conversation with applicant's representative, James Hwa, on 10/27/2006 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group 'a', claims 11-18. Claims 19-26 are cancelled.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Hwa on 10/27/2006. Examiner notes that the specification is amended, as requested by applicant, to reflect the allowed claims. Claims 11, 12, 15, and 16 are amended to correct the indefinite claim language "capable of". Claims 19-26 are cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification

Amendment to the Abstract

5. Please replace the text in the section labeled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" with:

"Provided is a storage device that includes a first interface unit configured to connect to an external apparatus, a second interface unit configured to connect to a network, and a control unit which control the storage device. The control unit determines whether the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit. The control unit selects a first operating mode where the storage device is used by the external apparatus and the second interface unit is disabled, if the control units determines that the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit. The control unit selects a second operating mode where the storage device operates as a file server and the second interface is

enabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is not connected to the first interface unit.”

Amendment to the Summary of the Invention

6. Please replace the text in the section labeled “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION” with:

“Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a storage device that can operate as a storage device exclusively for a video apparatus and also as a file server.

By way of example, there is provided a storage device comprising:

a first interface unit configured to connect to an external apparatus,
a second interface unit configured to connect to a network, and
a control unit which control the storage device,

wherein the control unit determines whether the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit,

the control unit selects a first operating mode where the storage device is used by the external apparatus and the second interface unit is disabled, if the control units determines that the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit,

the control unit selects a second operating mode where the storage device operates as a file server and the second interface is enabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is not connected to the first interface unit.

Further, by way of example, there is provided a method of controlling a storage device, the storage device including a first interface unit configured to connect to an external apparatus, a second interface unit configured to connect to a network, and a control unit which control the storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit,

selecting a first operating mode where the storage device is used by the external apparatus and the second interface unit is disabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit,

selecting a second operating mode where the storage device operates as a file server and the second interface is enabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is not connected to the first interface unit.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the figures thereof."

Claims

7. In claim 11, lines 2 and 3, please replace "capable of" with "configured to".
8. In claim 12, lines 2, please replace "capable of" with "configured to".

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9. In claim 15, lines 2, please replace two instances of "capable of" with "configured to".
10. In claim 16, lines 2, please replace "capable of" with "configured to".
11. Please cancel claims 19-26.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11 and 15 recites, inter alia, "determine whether the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit" and "selecting a second operating mode where the storage device operates as a file server and the second interface unit is enabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is not connected to the first interface unit". Prior art of record do not teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the aforementioned limitation, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitation. Examiner notes that although prior art discloses multiple operating modes for a storage device, it does not disclose switching enabling and disabling a file server mode based on a determination of whether an external apparatus is connected.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Sun whose telephone number is (571) 272-2675. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:30am-7pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim N. Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS



KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

10/30/06